

June 7, 2000

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT BOARD
ANNOUNCES APPLICATION DEADLINE
FOR
SPRINGFIELD CJA PANEL

THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT BOARD WILL ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR FOUR POSITIONS ON THE PRESENT DISTRICT COURT PANEL LIST FOR APPOINTMENT TO INDIGENT CASES IN SPRINGFIELD. THE BOARD IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS TO FILL ONLY FOUR POSITIONS UNTIL THE ENTIRE PANEL EXPIRES AND IS REVIEWED AGAIN IN JUNE 2001.

IN JUNE OF 1998 THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT APPROVED A LIST OF 32 ATTORNEYS TO SERVE ON THE PANEL FOR SPRINGFIELD. APPOINTMENTS FOR THIS GROUP EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2001. THE DISTRICT COURT NOW MAINTAINS THREE SEPARATE PANELS FOR APPOINTMENTS FROM THE BOSTON, WORCESTER AND SPRINGFIELD OFFICES. **ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE SPRINGFIELD PANEL UNTIL JUNE 2001, SHOULD FILE AN APPLICATION BY JULY 14, 2000.** A PANEL MEMBER MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM CRITERIA:

1. BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE BAR OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS AND THE BAR OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT.
2. HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A MEMBER OF THE BAR.
3. HAVE SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE TO FURNISH HIGH QUALITY REPRESENTATION TO CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS IN FEDERAL COURT.
4. BE FAMILIAR WITH (A) THE FEDERAL RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE; (B) THE FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE; (C) THE BAIL REFORM ACT OF 1984, AS AMENDED; AND (D) THE FEDERAL SENTENCING GUIDELINES.
5. DEMONSTRATE AN INTEREST AND EXPERIENCE IN THE PRACTICE OF CRIMINAL LAW, OR HAVE OTHER EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE.

IN DEVELOPING A RECOMMENDED LIST, THE BOARD INTENDS TO FOCUS ON DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO PROVIDE ABLE REPRESENTATION. WHILE IT IS EXPECTED THAT MOST OF THOSE RECOMMENDED FOR THE CJA PANEL WILL HAVE PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN CRIMINAL CASES, SUCH EXPERIENCE IS NOT ESSENTIAL.

FROM AMONG THOSE CONSIDERED TO BE WELL-QUALIFIED, THE BOARD WILL SEEK TO RECOMMEND A CJA PANEL WHICH IS SENSITIVE TO THE DIVERSITY OF THE DEFENDANT POPULATION IT WILL BE SERVING AND TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN ARE FULLY REPRESENTED IN THE PANEL'S MEMBERSHIP.

THE BOARD IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING APPLICATIONS FROM ATTORNEYS WITH SPANISH LANGUAGE SKILLS. FOR ATTORNEYS WHO LACK CRIMINAL DEFENSE EXPERIENCE IN FEDERAL COURT, THE BOARD OPERATES A MENTORING PROGRAM.

THE APPLICATION CAN BE OBTAINED (1) IN SUITE 2300 OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE IN BOSTON; (2) IN ROOM 521 OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE IN SPRINGFIELD; (3) BY SENDING A MAILING LABEL TO JOHN STUCKENBRUCK, CLERK'S OFFICE - ROOM 521, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, 1550 MAIN ST., SPRINGFIELD, MA 01103 (4) BY CALLING THE CLERK'S OFFICE AT (617) 748-9165 OR (413) 785-0216 OR (4) BY PRINTING IT FROM THE COURT'S INTERNET WEB SITE AT WWW.MAD.USCOURTS.GOV. APPLICATIONS MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED IN THE DIVISIONAL OFFICES IN WORCESTER AND SPRINGFIELD.

THE CJA BOARD CONSISTS OF: CHARLES W. RANKIN, CHAIRMAN, JANICE BASSIL, JAMES S. DILDAY, EILEEN DONOGHUE, MORRIS M. GOLDINGS, JOHN P. PUCCI, A. HUGH SCOTT, MARTIN G. WEINBERG AND FEDERAL DEFENDER OWEN S. WALKER.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT LIAISONS TO THE CJA BOARD INCLUDE: DISTRICT JUDGE MARK L. WOLF, CHIEF MAGISTRATE JUDGE ROBERT B. COLLINGS AND HELEN M. COSTELLO, PROJECTS MANAGER.